

Beginning 12:01 am on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, Superior National Forest Managers will allow public use in all but a small portion of the area in the BWCAW that was affected by last year's Pagami Creek wildfire.

The decision to adjust the closure area is based on recent field assessments of conditions in the fire area and rehabilitation work that was accomplished by crews this spring.

Until further notice, **the following will remain closed** to reduce the potential for further damage to the Wilderness resource and to protect public health and safety due to persistent conditions resulting from the Pagami Creek Wildfire:

- Campsites that are posted closed
- Portages accessing Horseshoe, Brewis, Harbor, North Wilder, and South Wilder
- Pow Wow Trail and Pow Wow Trail Entry Point

Visitors planning to travel in the area affected by the Pagami Creek Wildfire are encouraged to:

Find a campsite early in the day. Campsites may be limited and some will be posted as "closed".

Beware of snags. Standing trees may look solid but the root system may have been burned away and they could fall at any time.

Bring a cookstove. Firewood is limited - don't burn charred wood or woody debris that is needed by the recovering forest for nutrients.

Bearproof campsites. There may not be sufficient trees to hang a food pack. Have an alternative such as a bear resistant food container.

Help vegetation recover more quickly. By using existing tent pads, latrine trails, and portages, rather than making new ones, the vegetation can grow back.

Witness a changing, rejuvenating forest in the burned area. Natural processes will re-establish the fire-dependent landscape.

For additional information regarding the 2011 Pagami Creek Wildfire and updates regarding conditions on the Superior National Forest, as well as in the fire area, visit www.fs.usda.gov/superior.